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## PART I – INTRODUCTION

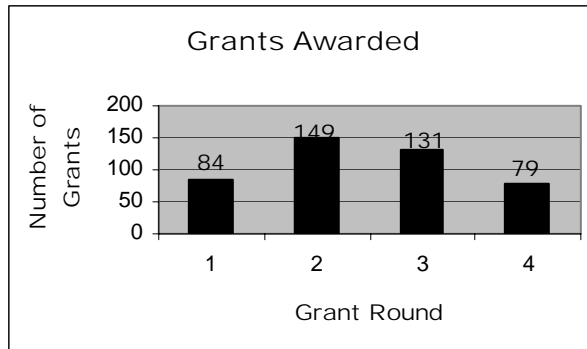
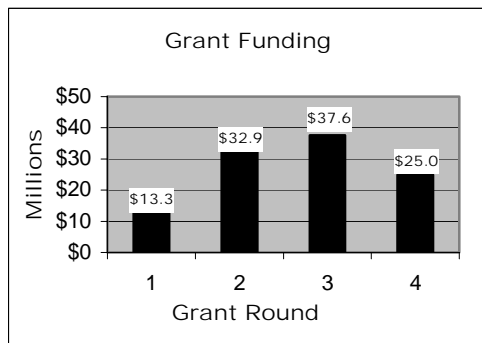
### Introduction

The Legislature created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) in 1999 to provide grants to protect and restore salmon habitat. The board works closely with local watershed groups known as lead entities<sup>1</sup> to develop projects for funding. To date, the SRFB has helped finance more than 500 projects statewide.

This report presents information on the process used to review the fifth round of grant applications (2004), and discussions of both the SRFB Review Panel's evaluation of strategies and the technical advisors' evaluations of projects.

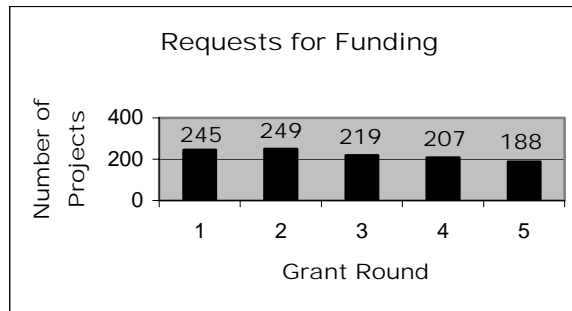
### Previous Grant Cycles

SRFB's funding awards have varied since the first round of grants in March 2000. Funding awards have ranged from a low of \$13.3 million to a high of \$37.6 million in a given round. As varied as the funding was, so too was the number of grants awarded. The SRFB has awarded anywhere from 79 grants to 149.



The number of requests for funding has dropped steadily since the first grant round but has been offset by a steadily increasing average dollar amount per request. The number of lead entities has been at 26 since 2001.

<sup>1</sup> Lead entity groups, authorized under Chapter 77.85 RCW, are established for a local area by agreement between the county, cities, and tribes. A coordinating organization is chosen as the lead entity, which creates a citizen-based committee to prioritize projects. All lead entities also have a technical advisory group to evaluate the scientific and technical merits of the projects seeking funding. Consistent with state law and SRFB policies, all projects seeking funding must be reviewed and prioritized by a lead entity group to be considered by the board.



In previous rounds, the SRFB's review process has been one of rating individual projects based on scientific merits. The criteria used in the third and fourth rounds were based on each projects' benefit to salmon and certainty of success. The SRFB Panel's rating of individual projects, however, occasionally disagreed with the local lead entity rating process. These contradictions led to conflicts between local and state reviewers. To avoid conflicts and improve efficiency for all parties, the board created a new review process for the fifth round.

## Overview of the Fifth Grant Round

At a May 15-16, 2003, Lead Entity Strategy Workshop in SeaTac, lead entity representatives, the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG), SRFB staff, SRFB technical panel members, and others offered numerous suggestions for future grant cycles, including a major change that advanced the role of strategies and project lists. The lead entities and project sponsors preferred the State's review not duplicate the local technical reviews. State and local representatives agreed that the State's review should place emphasis on the lead entity strategies and lists of projects and to a lesser degree on evaluation of the benefits of individual projects.

To address these suggestions and create recommendations for the fifth round grant cycle, the SRFB created the Issues Task Force at its June 4-5, 2003, meeting in Vancouver. The task force met from July 2003 through May 2004. Chaired by SRFB member Steve Tharinger, the task force was composed of representatives from LEAG, lead entity citizens advisory groups, regional recovery planning areas, and staff from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Ecology (ECY), Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and SRFB. The SRFB adopted final policies for the fifth round grant cycle at its February 19-20, 2004, meeting in Lacey. See Attachment 1 for the timeline of the grant cycle. Key to this grant cycle was an increasing reliance on salmon recovery strategies authored by the lead entities and the overall list of projects submitted by lead entities.

A lead entity strategy is a habitat protection and restoration action plan for the watersheds within the lead entity area. It provides a stepwise approach to how, where, and when to take action to restore and protect habitat and the watershed processes that are necessary to support salmon. It takes into consideration current knowledge and understanding of biological, physical, chemical, and ecological factors as well as community social, economic, and cultural values and goals. The strategy provides

guidance for specific actions over time and space in pursuit of established goals and desired outcomes. The recommended components of a strategy were published on October 30, 2003, in a document titled, *A Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*.

Evaluation of the specificity and focus of the strategy and the fit to the ranked list of projects to the strategy was accepted as the preferred method for evaluating the fifth round lists of projects submitted for funding. Additionally, criteria were developed that the Review Panel's technical advisors would use to identify "projects of concern"--projects that are deemed technically unsound.

On March 1, 2004, the SRFB initiated the fifth round grant cycle. Each of the 26 lead entities solicited projects from local sponsors during the summer of 2004. In conjunction with lead entity coordinators, SRFB staff conducted workshops around the state to familiarize prospective project sponsors with the new SRFB evaluation process. In the spring-summer of 2004, each lead entity evaluated its proposed projects. In most cases, project lists were prioritized first by a local technical advisory group, and then reviewed by the lead entity citizen committee.

From March to April 2004, the SRFB Review Panel met with coordinators and technical and citizen committee members from each lead entity group. The purpose of these meetings was to familiarize members of the Review Panel with the status of habitat and salmonid stocks in lead entity watersheds, the level of technical expertise available to lead entities, the strategy for habitat protection and restoration, and the lead entity's evaluation process. The meetings also provided an opportunity for the Review Panel to give lead entity representatives initial informal feedback on the lead entity's overall approach to strategy development and project prioritization.

From March to June 2004, the technical advisors met with lead entities and project sponsors to make project site visits, note potential projects of concern, and provide recommendations for how make all projects better. These meetings were made available at the request of lead entities. Two lead entities chose not to participate.

By the July 16, 2004, application deadline, 26 lead entities had submitted a total of 188 projects requesting total funding of \$48 million. In August 2004, lead entity application materials were provided to the Review Panel and its technical advisors for review. These materials included:

**A. Lead Entity List Memorandum**

Appendix B of Manual 18 describes the one-page transmittal listing the ranked projects and signed by the "authorized lead entity representative."

**B. Lead Entity Strategy and Project Evaluation Criteria**

Each lead entity provided the documents that comprise its strategy and criteria for how it evaluated its projects.

### **C. Strategy Summary**

Each lead entity provided a concise summary of its strategy arranged in three parts:

#### **1. Scientific Information and Technical Foundation**

- a) What are the stocks and their status in your area?
- b) What are the priorities and goals for these stocks? What is the technical basis for these decisions?
- c) What are the limiting habitat features and/or watershed processes limiting recovery?
- d) Which are the most important ones?
- e) What are the major actions necessary to protect and improve the stocks?
- f) What are your priority actions and/or geographic areas based on scientific information?
- g) What is the basis for the priorities?

#### **2. Community Interests**

- a) How do you assess community interests and support for actions necessary to protect and improve salmon stocks?
- b) What types of biologically based high priority projects, geographic areas, and actions currently enjoy the community support necessary for successful implementation? (In the *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*, where is the overlap in science-based priorities and community priorities?)
- c) What types of biologically based high priority projects, geographic areas, and actions do not currently enjoy the community support necessary for successful implementation and why?
- d) Do you have a strategy or set of actions to increase the community support necessary for successful implementation of these priority actions and areas? If so, briefly describe the strategy and proposed actions.

#### **3. Overall Approach to Guide Project Priorities**

- a) Based on the technical foundation and assessment of community interests, what actions, types of projects, and areas are emphasized in your strategy?
- b) How does your project ranking system support these priorities?

### **D. Fit of the Project List to Strategy**

As part of its submission to SRFB, the lead entity demonstrated how its list reflects the priorities, approaches, and issues expressed in its strategy. Each lead entity responded to the following questions:

1. Explain how your list of projects addresses the highest priority species and stocks, limiting habitat features, and limiting watershed processes identified in your strategy.
2. Explain how your list of projects carries out the highest priority actions specified in your strategy.
3. Explain how your list of projects addresses the highest priority areas in your watershed as specified in your strategy.
4. Explain how the rank order of your list reflects the priority of stocks, limiting habitat features, and limiting watershed processes identified in your strategy.
5. Explain how the rank order of your list reflects the priority of actions specified in your strategy.
6. Explain how the rank order of your list reflects the priority of targeted areas in your watershed.
7. Explain how the rank order of your list of projects reflects community interests in your watershed. This includes community benefits of projects, support for the projects being proposed, and how projects build support for future salmon recovery efforts.

#### **E. Project Application Materials**

The lead entity was responsible for ensuring each application had a valid match, was free of mathematical errors, and was technically complete and sound. There was no restriction on the number of projects or total dollar amount a lead entity could request. However, the lead entity and project applicants were encouraged to remember that funding is limited.

Additionally, each lead entity was required to use IAC's PRISM on-line grant management system to submit all application materials.

Based on the Issues Task Force recommendations, the SRFB created an arm of the Review Panel (termed technical advisors) that completed the final review of the 188 projects based on their scientific merits. It was understood the lead entities would perform the primary technical review of individual projects, having the most detailed knowledge of local conditions and design and construction approaches that are appropriate. However, to provide for statewide consistency and to help ensure that every project considered for funding by the SRFB is technically sound, the technical advisors noted any projects they believed had low benefit to salmon, a low likelihood of being successful, or costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits of the project. The technical advisors did not otherwise rate, score, or rank projects. See Part III.

Emphasis was placed on reviewing projects of concern identified during the lead entity visits. After release of the draft report, lead entities had two weeks to respond in order to provide additional information or to make changes in projects in order to address the technical advisors' concerns.

Any projects of concern noted by the technical advisors remained on the project lists evaluated by the Review Panel, and continue to be forwarded to the SRFB unless the lead entity decided to withdraw the project.

## Additional Reviews

### Fish Passage, Passage Design, Barrier Inventory, and Screening Projects' Review

Fifty-five of the 188 applications submitted were for fish passage, passage design, barrier inventory, and screening projects. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) "salmonid screening habitat enhancement and restoration" (SSHEAR) program<sup>2</sup> reviewed all such projects. The Fish and Wildlife team provided detailed comments on a special project review form, which was sent to lead entities, project applicants, and the SRFB Review Panel and its technical advisors.

The purpose of this review was twofold. First, the review provided a specialized evaluation to help ensure that applicants were following the state criteria for fish passage and screening. If not, it then provided constructive comments to help the applicant make the appropriate adjustments. Second, the review was to help promote the technical services available to project applicants from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Many applicants received some form of technical assistance during the development of their project proposals. Additional specialized technical resources were made available by the department through the Watershed Stewardship Program, SRFB project managers, or by contacting the department contact listed in the grant application. This specialized assistance included discussing basic engineering approaches, determining priority index numbers, fish usage, relative priority in the watershed, and developing a detailed scope of work.

### Design

For screening, passage, and passage design projects, WDFW concentrated on two components of each project – engineering and biological review.

The engineering review included the preliminary engineering data along with any conceptual designs. In most cases, the conceptual design and cost estimates were adequate to evaluate what was going to be performed and how it was going to be installed. Inconsistencies concerning the conceptual design or cost estimates were noted on the review form.

The biological review consisted of verifying the priority index number<sup>3</sup>, if calculated, or calculating a priority index number whenever stream channel data were provided. Surrogate priority index numbers were calculated by applying multipliers, depending on the confidence level of the data provided. Fish species expected to benefit and the stock status were verified for each project by crosschecking with the department's biological data, the Streamnet database, salmonid stock inventory (SaSI) reports, and personal knowledge of the watershed in the project vicinity.

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<sup>2</sup> Now the Business Services Engineering Program and the WDFW Habitat Program Technical Applications Division.

## Screens

Review of screening projects focused on verifying the Screening Priority Index (SPI)<sup>4</sup> number, or calculating that number whenever data was provided. Species expected to benefit and stock status for each proposed screening project were verified by crosschecking with department biological data, Streamnet database, SaSi reports, and personal knowledge of watershed. Flow rates through the pump or diversion, species present, stock mobility, stock status, and project cost were considered while calculating Screening Priority Index numbers.

## Marine Nearshore Projects

To promote a better understanding of marine and nearshore issues, Review Panel review was supplemented with outside reviewers. This added review provided Panel members with additional insight into nearshore proposals. One panel member with nearshore expertise worked with staff of the SRFB, the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project and Nearshore Science Team, and other nearshore ecology experts to provide additional commentary on nearshore and estuary projects.

The fifth round grant cycle received 37 nearshore and marine projects: 15 nearshore and marine assessments from 11 lead entities; 15 restoration proposals from nine lead entities; three combination projects from three lead entities and four acquisition projects from four lead entities.

Reviewers also used two nearshore guidance documents to evaluate projects. Assessment projects were evaluated for consistency with the *Guidance for Evaluating SRFB Nearshore Assessments* developed by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project Screening Committee (May 14, 2002). The guidance identifies three potential phases of assessments: (1) An inventory of habitat conditions; (2) Documentation of linkages between current and past conditions; and (3) Predictions of salmon response to change in habitat. For protection and restoration projects the nearshore reviewers used the *Guidance for Protection and Restoration of the Nearshore Ecosystems of the Puget Sound* (Nearshore Science Team, 2003) as the basis for project evaluation. Both guidance documents were identified in Manual 18 for the fifth round and made available to the applicants.

<sup>3</sup> The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Fish Passage Inventory process uses a Priority Index model to consolidate the many factors, which affect a project's feasibility (expected passage improvement, production potential of the blocked stream, fish stock health, etc.) into a manageable framework for comparing projects. The result is a numeric indicator giving each project's relative priority that includes production benefits to both anadromous and resident salmonid species.

<sup>4</sup> The Screening Priority Index Model (SPI) is a hybrid of the quadratic formula used in prioritizing fish passage barriers. The SPI was created to consolidate the many variable relevant to water diversions into a manageable framework for developing prioritized list of projects.

## **PART II – REVIEW PANEL EVALUATIONS**

### Specificity and Focus of Strategies and Fit of Project Lists

This portion of the final report was prepared by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Review Panel. The Review Panel provided ratings and narratives on the focus and specificity of strategies developed by lead entities and the fit of project lists to those strategies, as described in the SRFB 5<sup>th</sup> Round Policies and Project Selection Manual 18. Ratings and narratives for each lead entity are contained in Attachment 3 of this report. In addition, the staff report (Part V) contains a color-coded table of ratings for all lead entities (Table V-1, Review Panel Rating Summary Chart).

In this section of the report the Review Panel describes the process and methods they used, and some observations and recommendations based on the results of their work.

#### Process

##### **Strategy Evaluations (March-April 2004)**

The Review Panel met with all 26 lead entities from March 22 to April 13 to discuss strategies and provide early opportunities for interaction.

##### **Project List Evaluations (July-October 2004)**

After the July 16 application deadline, the Review Panel reviewed written materials submitted by lead entities including: strategy summaries, strategies, responses by lead entities to questions about strategies and project lists, and other project materials.

From September 21 to October 6, the Review Panel and technical advisors met as a group with lead entities to seek additional information and clarifications. At these meetings, lead entities made presentations about their strategies, strategy summaries, and rationale for how project lists fit with the strategies, and projects of concern.

SRFB criteria for Review Panel evaluations are in Appendix D of Manual 18 (attached). It is important to note that for the 5<sup>th</sup> round, the SRFB directed the review panel not to evaluate the overall quality of lead entity strategies but to instead evaluate the focus and specificity of strategies.

##### **Review of Draft Report (October-November 2004)**

Evaluations made by the Review Panel were contained in a draft report that was submitted to lead entities for review from October 19-29. Written and/or oral comments on draft Review Panel findings were received from 21 lead entities. At their request, a total of 13 lead entities met with the Review Panel and technical advisors from November 2-3 to discuss draft strategy ratings and narratives, and projects of concern. As a result of these clarifying discussions, the Review Panel modified 10 of 41 ratings for which changes were specifically requested in lead entity comments.

## Methods

The Review Panel's evaluation of **specificity and focus** addressed four categories: species, habitat features and watershed processes, actions and geographic areas, and community issues, based on the *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*. For each of these categories the Review Panel provided a rating of *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, or *poor*, and the rationale for the rating.

The Review Panel's evaluation of how well each lead entity's **project list** reflected priorities in their strategies addressed two categories: habitat restoration and protection actions and geographic areas, and the fit of project ranking on lists. For each category, the Review Panel provided a rating of *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, or *poor*, and the rationale for the rating. Finally, a general summary was provided in narrative form for each lead entity.

To make rating determinations, the Review Panel applied the definitions of "excellent" from Appendix D of Manual 18, associated with each of the six rating categories. Given the upper bound established by the definitions of excellent, the ratings for the other three categories (good, fair, and poor) were determined by judging how well the projects addressed the questions the Review Panel considered in each category (as posed in Appendix D of Manual 18).

It was of utmost importance to the Review Panel that its ratings and narratives be as accurate and fair as possible based on the information reviewed. Striving for consistency within and between categories was crucial. In developing its draft ratings and narratives, the Review Panel deliberated and rigorously evaluated each question in detail, and involved technical advisors and SRFB staff for assistance as needed.

## Interpretive Notes

- Based on experience with the process, the Review Panel urges caution in interpreting the ratings outside the context of the narratives. The definition of "excellent" typically set challenging standards that were difficult to achieve in most cases. It is important to note however, that with only four categories to work with, a considerable range of variation exists within each. The narratives will help clarify the variability within ratings.
- The "excellent" standard, while very high, does not mean that there is no room for improvement. For example, all lead entities have room to improve their identification, prioritization, and linkages to habitat features associated with watershed processes that are essential for long-term salmon recovery and conservation.

## Comments on Ratings by Category

### Specificity and Focus

- *Species and stocks* – This category asked that species and stocks in lead entity areas be identified along with priorities and a clear rationale for those priorities. However, in some cases lead entities did not identify all species or stocks in their area, and thus did not meet the SRFB criteria for an excellent rating. Ratings were generally good (8 and 14 of 26 lead entities received excellent and good ratings, respectively).
- *Habitat Features and Watershed Processes* – SRFB criteria for this rating address both habitat features and watershed processes. At this time, the focus and specificity of lead entity strategies is generally better with respect to identifying and prioritizing habitat features than in identifying and prioritizing watershed processes. Many strategies identified and prioritized habitat features but did not extend this and clarify the linkages between those features and the underlying (causal) watershed processes (e.g., delivery and routing of wood, sediment, water, heat, nutrients). Since the definition of excellent in the SRFB criteria asks that both habitat features and watershed processes be identified and prioritized, it was difficult for lead entities to achieve an excellent rating. However, ratings were generally good (6 and 15 of 26 lead entities received excellent and good ratings, respectively).
- *Actions and Geographic Areas* – Ratings for this category were the highest of the four specificity and focus categories. Most strategies identified and prioritized geographic areas but fewer prioritized actions. Ratings were fairly good (9 and 15 of 26 lead entities received excellent and good ratings, respectively).
- *Community Issues* – SRFB criteria for this category are complex, emphasizing not just having community support but also the need for strategies to include a strategic approach to identifying and obtaining support where it is needed to address highest priority actions and areas. This complexity made it difficult for strategies to achieve excellent ratings. Most lead entities took a general approach, emphasizing their considerable but broad outreach efforts and processes to building general support within their lead entity areas. Relatively few took the more difficult and risky additional step of being focused and specific about identifying issues or areas that face substantial limitations, and articulating a focused and prioritized strategy to address those limitations. Ratings for this category were the lowest of all categories (1 and 14 of 26 lead entities received excellent and good ratings, respectively).

### Fit to Strategy

- *Actions and Geographic Areas* – SRFB criteria for this category addressed how well project lists fit to priority actions and geographic areas as identified in lead entity strategies. To achieve an excellent rating the SRFB criteria necessitate all projects reflecting highest priorities. There were many situations where projects on lists reflected high priorities but not the highest priorities. That influenced the somewhat lower ratings for this category (3 and 14 of 26 lead entities received excellent and good ratings, respectively).

- *Fit of project ranking* – The ratings for specificity and focus of strategies formed the basis for determining how well project lists fit strategies. When strategies were not specific or focused in one or more respects, ratings in the “fit-to-list” categories were affected, particularly with respect to rank order. In those cases, the Review Panel rated rank order typically as excellent because a wide variety of projects were very consistent with the vague strategy.

In contrast, for specific and well-focused strategies rank order determinations were likely to be meaningful. In addition, the Review Panel feels ratings of rank order will be most useful in instances where lists contain multiple projects (some lists had very few projects), and where projects on lists clearly fell well outside the rank order that would otherwise have been expected with a vague strategy. The Review Panel does not feel statewide consistency was achieved for rank order ratings. To reiterate, for this category narratives associated with rank order will generally convey information more consistently and more meaningfully than ratings.

For these reasons, the Review Panel concluded its ratings of rank order will be of dubious value and subject to likely misinterpretation, and recommends that the SRFB consider eliminating those ratings from the evaluation process.

## Biographies

A list of the six Review Panel members and brief resume on each member are below.

- **Jeanette Smith**, consultant, Seattle. She has served on the SRFB’s technical panel in rounds 3 and 4 and has expertise in aquatic ecology. She has a master’s degree in fisheries sciences from the University of Washington and a bachelor’s degree with double major in biological sciences and environmental conservation from the University of Colorado.
- **Tom Robinson**, consultant, Olympia, former DNR regional manager in Forks. He holds a bachelor’s degree in forest engineering from Oregon State University. He has expertise in the conservation of ESA listed species, forest practices regulations, natural heritage, recreation, and natural resources conservation areas.

- **Karl Denison**, US Forest Service, Olympic National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Olympia. He is the forest service liaison for Washington's National Forests where he provides technical advice on policy issues to the regional forester, directors and forest supervisors. He received his bachelor's degree in forest management with minor in wildlife biology from Washington State University and is a certified silviculturist from the graduate schools at the University of Washington and Oregon State University.
- **Will Hall**, Golder Associates, Inc., Seattle. He has expertise in nearshore and watershed planning/salmon recovery and is the former Snohomish County lead entity coordinator. He has a master's of marine affairs degree from the University of Washington, a master's of arts in mathematics from the Johns Hopkins University, and a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Chicago.
- **Bruce Smith**, consultant, Spokane. He is retired from WDFW where he was the Spokane regional director with expertise in stakeholder involvement, habitat protection, wildlife management, and land use regulations. He has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Puget Sound.

#### **TEAM LEADER:**

**Steve Leider**, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia. He is a science and policy specialist with expertise in the natural production, life history, ecology and genetics of salmon, steelhead and trout and the ecological and genetic interactions between hatchery and wild fish. He has a bachelor's degree in fisheries science from the University of Washington and is a certified fisheries scientist.

## **PART III – TECHNICAL ADVISORS**

### Introduction

This part of the report contains the results of the technical advisors' evaluations of 188 projects submitted by 26 lead entities. It consists of evaluation criteria for individual projects (Attachment 4), project evaluation forms for the projects of concern (Attachment 5), and a list of the 188 projects (Attachment 7) listing the ranked order, applicants name, project title, requested funds, matching funds, total project cost, projects of concern, and the first increment of funding.

### General Approach

A seven-member group of technical experts evaluated all the projects to determine if any of them had low benefit to salmon, were unlikely to be successful, or were not cost-effective. The technical advisors did not otherwise rate, score, or rank projects. The Review Panel's technical advisors took into account that at the time of application, some projects may not have been completely designed or may not have identified specific parcels for purchase. It is expected that projects will follow best management practices, when available, and will meet any state and federal permitting requirements.

Projects were screened for eligibility based on the criteria published in SRFB Manual 18, pages 14-15. Applicants were notified of any ineligible projects before the technical advisors evaluated the projects.

### Process

#### Field Trips (March-July 2004)

At the invitation of the lead entities, teams of technical advisors visited projects. Two weeks before each visit, the lead entity was asked to provide basic project information for the technical advisors. The technical advisors identified 37 potential projects of concern. Applicants and lead entities had until the July 16-submittal deadline to consider making changes. The technical advisors spent from July 17 to September 6 reviewing all of the application materials and filling out individual evaluation forms for each project.

#### September Evaluation

On September 7-8, the technical advisors met with SRFB staff to discuss each project to decide if it should have the label of project of concern removed, retained for the same or new reasons, or if new concerns arose to make new projects of concern. From this two-day discussion, the technical advisors identified 55 projects of concern. These draft evaluations were then sent to lead entities for review by applicants from September 10-17. As applicants provided comments and clarifying information these materials were sent to the technical advisors for consideration.

## October Evaluations

On October 1, the technical advisors participated in a telephone conference call with SRFB staff to consider the new information as a means to remove or retain the label of project of concern. This review resulted in the technical advisors identifying 34 projects of concern and completing evaluation forms for each of these projects that explained the reasons for their decisions. Additionally, the technical advisors continued reviewing the materials submitted by applicants both before and after the September 17 deadline.

On October 7, the technical advisors met in person with SRFB staff to once again review the 34 projects of concern. After lengthy discussion, the technical advisors concluded their deliberations with 27 projects of concern. Specific criteria from SRFB Manual 18, Appendix C, were identified as the justification for their final decisions on projects of concern (Attachment 4). Additionally, one project, although not a project of concern, was found to merit “special conditions” in the event the project receives funding. Upon completing their work on the morning of October 7, they presented their final findings to the Review Panel for consideration during its deliberations later that afternoon.

The draft report was sent to lead entities for review from October 19-29. Comments were received and sent to the technical advisors for their review and consideration. When the Review Panel and its technical advisors met on November 2 and 3 to discuss the written comments and personal testimony by the lead entities, the 27 projects of concern were reduced to 19. See Attachment 5 for the individual evaluation forms for the 19 projects of concern.

In addition to identifying projects of concern, the technical advisors provided helpful suggestions to many other projects as a means to make good projects even better. This and other information was captured on individual evaluation forms for all projects. In this report only the individual evaluation forms for projects of concern are included.

## Summary

In summary, 188 projects were submitted by July 16. Four were determined to be ineligible and the applicants and lead entities withdrew another four projects. Of the 180 remaining projects, 19 or 11 percent are projects of concern. See Attachment 7 for a list of lead entity ranked projects showing the final projects of concern.

A list of the seven technical advisors and a brief resume on each member are provided below.

## Biographies

- **Steve Toth**, consulting hydrologist, Seattle. He served on the SRFB’s Technical Panel in rounds three and four and has expertise in watershed analyses, evaluating surface water and groundwater hydrology, surveying channel morphology and fish habitat, assessing riparian forest functions, delineating wetlands, analyzing slope stability, and calculating road erosion. He was a Fulbright Scholar in water management in Hungary and gained a College of

Forest Resources Graduate School Fellowship at University of Washington. He studied biology as an undergraduate at Carlton College and received his master's of science degree in forest hydrology from the University of Washington.

- **Pat Powers**, engineer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia. He is a nationally recognized expert in aquatic habitat restoration and fish passage and was a prime contributor to the department's recently published report titled, *Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines*. He received his master's and bachelor's of science degrees in civil engineering from Washington State University with an emphasis in hydrology, hydraulics, river engineering, fish passage, and fisheries engineering.
- **Jeff Dillon**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle. He served on the SRFB's fourth round technical panel and is a fish biologist and the lead biologist responsible for ongoing fisheries investigations of juvenile and adult salmon and in several Western Washington basins and estuaries within Puget Sound. He earned his bachelor's of science degree in fish biology from Colorado State University where he also completed ROTC training and was awarded a commission as an engineer officer for the U.S. Army.
- **Phillip J. DeCillis**, U.S. Forest Service, district fisheries biologist, Forks. He has expertise in forest management, fish habitat, surveying, watershed restoration, environmental analysis and project planning, fish passage, large woody debris placement, riparian restoration, and effectiveness monitoring. He received his bachelor's of science degree in environmental studies from The Evergreen State College and his Associate of Arts and Science degree in fisheries technology from Peninsula College.
- **Gary L. Kedish**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office, Spokane. He has expertise in bull trout biology and recovery, Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation for land use impacts on anadromous fish and forest management. He received his master's of science degree in natural resources and a bachelor's of science degree in wildlife and range sciences from the University of Idaho.
- **Richard Brocksmith**, habitat program manager, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Quilcene. He has expertise in nearshore and marine ecology, salmon restoration, and research with field experience in Oklahoma, Wyoming, Washington, California, and Alaska. He earned his bachelor's of science degree in zoology and fisheries ecology at Oklahoma State University and his master's of science degree in fish ecology at University of Washington.

- **Tom Slocum**, engineer, district engineer for the conservation districts of San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom, and Whidbey Island in Mount Vernon. He has expertise in engineering, permitting, project management, construction inspection, and project monitoring related to salmon habitat restoration, erosion control, and storm water management. He received his law degree (cum laude) from the Seattle University Law School, his master's of science degree in civil engineering from the Northeastern University, and his bachelor's of art degree from Dartmouth College.

## **PART IV – MULTI-LEAD ENTITY ASSESSMENT PROJECTS**

### Background

Assessments spanning multi-lead entity areas rarely come to the SRFB through the lead entity process often because lead entities tend to only prioritize projects within their lead entity area and projects that affect fish spawning in their area. However, a salmon's range may span several lead entity areas. For example, salmon spawning in the Nisqually basin might swim through the marine portions of many lead entity areas as they make their way to and from the Pacific Ocean. Likewise, salmon spawning in the Wenatchee watershed might swim through a number of lead entity areas as they travel the Columbia River mainstem.

In Puget Sound marine nearshore areas, the ecosystems in different lead entity areas also might be highly interconnected, and thus ecological processes are likely to span multiple lead entity areas. This means that assessments could be conducted over larger areas if they are to be useful to the SRFB. In addition, some types of assessments can offer significant efficiencies in time and costs if conducted over a number of lead entity areas as part of the same project.

At its November 14, 2002, and January 29, 2003 meetings, the SRFB approved policies for evaluating funding requests for programs and activities outside of the lead entity process (Attachment 6). The board decided it would consider soliciting proposals once a year, coincident with the annual lead entity-based grant cycle. In this way, the amount of funding requested by programs and activities can be weighed against the funding needed for on-the-ground habitat protection and restoration projects. The SRFB decided to accept proposals for consideration coincident with the fifth round at its June 24-25, 2004 meeting in order to allow sufficient time for applicants to develop proposals, for staff and the Review Panel to evaluate projects, and for funding decisions to be made at the December 2-3, 2003 meeting.

### Eligible Projects & Applicants

Proposed assessments had to span two or more lead entity areas. The results of any assessment needed to directly and clearly lead to identification, siting, or design of salmon habitat protection or restoration projects or fill a data gap that is identified as a priority in a lead entity strategy and is limiting project or strategy development. Assessments only intended for research purposes, stand-alone monitoring, or to further general knowledge and understanding of watershed or marine nearshore conditions, processes, and functions, although important, were not eligible.

Assessments were to be closely coordinated with other similar assessments and data collection efforts and with the appropriate federal, tribal, state, regional, and local organizations to prevent duplication and ensure the use of appropriate methods and protocols. Assessments and studies were to be completed within two years unless additional time was necessary and could be justified by the project sponsor.

A minimum match of 15 percent was required from the applicant. Projects with a greater match would receive a higher priority in the SRFB evaluation process.

Eligible applicants included:

- Cities
- Native American Tribes
- Non Profit Organizations
- Special Purpose Districts
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
- Counties
- Private Landowners
- Conservation Districts
- Colleges and Universities
- State Agencies

### Content of Proposal & Evaluation

The proposal should:

1. Identify the species of salmon that be will be addressed and, if possible, their watershed of origin.
2. Provide statements of support from lead entities representing areas where the assessment is being conducted, and other lead entities when appropriate.
3. Demonstrate how the results of the assessments would lead to the improvement of lead entity strategies or lead directly to restoration and protection projects.
4. Demonstrate how the results of the assessment could aid the SRFB and its Review Panel in evaluating proposed habitat restoration and protection projects in the assessed area.
5. Identify geographic scope, noting all lead entity areas included in the proposed assessment.
6. Demonstrate why the assessment should be done across multiple lead entities areas rather be submitted through one or more individual lead entities as part of the annual funding cycle.
7. Demonstrate how the assessment addresses priorities in relevant lead entity strategies, or if not, why not.
8. Demonstrate how results will help SRFB in future evaluation and allocation decisions.
9. Describe methodology and demonstrate the use of standard protocols.
10. Demonstrate coordination with similar assessments when appropriate.

Proposals had to be postmarked no later than October 8, 2004.

### **Proposals Received**

Eight proposals were submitted; three were determined to be ineligible. Two of the ineligible projects did not span two or more lead entities. The six eligible proposals were reviewed by SRFB staff for completeness and forwarded to the SRFB Review Panel for evaluation. The Review Panel, with the assistance of its technical advisors, met November 3 to evaluate the proposals. See Table IV-I for a summary chart of the six projects.

The Review Panel and its technical advisors evaluated and ranked the six proposals based on the following criteria:

1. Amount of match greater than the minimum of 15 percent.
2. Level of support by the affected or cooperating lead entities.
3. Rationale for a multi-lead entity areas approach.
4. Coordination with similar assessments and data collection efforts and with the appropriate federal, tribal, state, regional, and local organizations to prevent duplication and ensure the use of appropriate methods and protocols.
5. Benefits to salmon and certainty of success (Attachment I).

Table IV-I. Multi-Lead Entity Assessment Review Summary Chart

Proposal (Applicant - project name)	Match (>15%)	Level of support	Priorities in lead entity strategies addressed	Rationale for assessment	Coordination with similar assessments	Benefit and certainty	Overall ranking
<b>Skagit River System Coop</b>  - Multi lead entity assessment	Match = 38% (\$920,093)	Qualified and surprisingly limited support in documentation reviewed, compared to other proposals	Proposal directly addresses the highest priority information gaps in several lead entity strategies in affected areas identified by the Review Panel in their review of 5 <sup>th</sup> Round strategies	Provides a useful coordination umbrella for a number of underlying nearshore assessment needs and efforts	Utility of proposed coordination depends on implementation of other nearshore projects on lead entity lists (e.g., Samish - juvenile salmon nearshore utilization; WA Trout West Whidbey nearshore fish use assessment; Dept. Fish/Wildlife nearshore central strait of Juan de Fuca)	Anticipated high benefit to the extent the work leads to effective coordination of multiple assessments and addresses common issues  Reviewers had concerns and questions regarding the scope of the proposed coordination and the budget overlap with Surfrider proposal.	<b>1<sup>1</sup> (tie)</b>  (Reviewers view this and the Surfrider proposal as a highest priority group)
<b>Surfrider Foundation</b>  - Northwest Salmon Beaches	Match = 40% (\$204,874)	Qualified documentation of support from local lead entities	Proposal directly addresses the highest priority information gaps in several lead entity strategies in	Proposed work would attempt to address key data gaps in the North Puget Sound area, consistent with the proposed Skagit	Proposal is unclear about coordination with similar assessments	Proposal includes specific elements in phase/year 3 intended to lead to projects; may lead to projects sooner than the Skagit proposal	<b>1 (tie)</b>

Proposal (Applicant - project name)	Match (>15%)	Level of support	Priorities in lead entity strategies addressed	Rationale for assessment	Coordination with similar assessments	Benefit and certainty	Overall ranking
			affected areas as noted by the Review Panel in their 5 <sup>th</sup> Round review of strategies (but to a lesser extent than the Skagit proposal)	coordination umbrella function		Reviewers had concerns and questions regarding the scope and budget overlap with the Skagit proposal	
<b>WA Trout</b>  - WRIA 13-14 Water typing Assessment	Match = 15% (\$17,600)	Documentation of support reviewed is primarily limited to local lead entities in WRIAs 13-14	Applies to WRIA 13-14 only	Helpful project for the local lead entity area, but the contribution of the project to the broader scale of salmon recovery (chinook or chum) is unclear  Scope of proposed work involves more than water typing	Unclear	Benefits would be directly related to WRIA 13-14  Should directly lead to projects and improved protective measures  Related to new WDNR water typing scheme, but connection to it is vague	<b>3</b>
<b>South Puget Sound SEG</b>  - WRIA 11-12 Nearshore Assessment and Restoration	Match = 20% (\$70,000)	Strong support in documentation reviewed	Proposed work is generally consistent with lead entity strategies (WRIA 11-12)  Not a high	Essentially addresses remaining unmet assessment need in this part of Puget Sound (with possible exception	Context does not include an overarching coordination mechanism (as is proposed above for North Puget Sound)	Proposal is aimed at development of projects, but reviewers had concerns about uncertainties in getting to projects due to existence of railroad	<b>4</b>

Proposal (Applicant - project name)	Match (>15%)	Level of support	Priorities in lead entity strategies addressed	Rationale for assessment	Coordination with similar assessments	Benefit and certainty	Overall ranking
			priority in Pierce lead entity strategy, but is identified in Nisqually strategy	Commencement Bay)			
<b>Snohomish County</b>  - Multiple-LE River Restoration Assessment	Match = 22% (\$80,000)	Relatively high level of support for the Sauk portion of the assessment	Relates fairly well to high priorities in some lead entity strategies (but not the Skagit strategy)	Applicable countywide, but has limited scope as a multi-lead entity effort	Proposed work would extends and completes previous inventories and analyses	Interim steps would be required to get to projects.  Reviewers recognize the value of the assessment for the Sauk, but not necessarily the same level of utility for other rivers	<b>5</b>
<b>University of Washington</b>  - Riverine salmonid habitat change	Match = 20% (\$72,823)	Documentation of support exists but proposed work is not clearly identified as a need by lead entities	Reviewers see considerable valuable in proposed work, but it is not directly or thoroughly linked to highest priorities in lead entity strategies	Good rationale and clear need for this type of synthesis  Has utility over broad geographic area (Puget Sound), and would be valuable for recovery at that scale	Proposed work would extend and complete previous work (e.g., analysis of change, GIS)	Reviewers had concerns about the direct benefit of the proposed work for lead entities  Proposed work may not lead directly to projects	<b>6</b>

## Attachment I: Evaluating Benefits and Certainty for Multi-Lead Entity Assessments

### Benefits of an Assessment Project

	<b>High Benefit Project</b>
Watershed Processes & Habitat Features	Addresses high priority habitat features and/or watershed process that significantly protects or limits the salmonid productivity in the area.  Crucial to understanding watershed processes, is directly relevant to project development or sequencing, and will clearly lead to new projects in high priority areas.
Areas & Actions	Is a high priority action located in a high priority geographic area.  Fills an important data gap in a high priority area.
Scientific	Is identified through a documented habitat assessment.
Species	Addresses multiple species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery or ESA-listed fish species or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Fish use has been documented.
Life History	Addresses an important life history stage or habitat type that limits the productivity of the salmonid species in the area and/or project addresses multiple life history requirements.
Costs	Has a low cost relative to the predicted benefits.

	<b>Medium Benefit Project</b>
Watershed Processes & Habitat Features	May not address the most important limiting factor but will improve habitat conditions.  Will lead to new projects in moderate priority areas and is independent of other key conditions being addressed first.
Areas & Actions	May be an important action but in a moderate priority geographic area.  Fills an important data gap, but is in a moderate priority area.
Scientific	Is identified through a documented habitat assessment or scientific opinion.
Species	Addresses a moderate number of species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery or ESA-listed fish species or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Fish use has been documented.
Life History	Addresses fewer life history stages or habitat types that limits the productivity of the salmonid species in the area and/or partially addresses fewer life history requirements.
Costs	Has a reasonable cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type in that location.

	<b>Low Benefit Project</b>
Watershed Processes & Habitat Features	Has not been proven to address an important habitat condition in the area.
Areas & Actions	Addresses a lower priority action or geographic area.
Scientific	Is unclear or lacks scientific information about the problem being addressed.
Species	Addresses a single species of a lower priority. Fish use may not have been documented.
Life History	Is unclear about the salmonid life history being addressed.
Costs	Has a high cost relative to the predicted benefits for that particular project type in that location.

### Certainty of an Assessment Project

	<b>High Certainty Project</b>
Appropriate	Scope is appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.
Approach	Is consistent with proven scientific methods. Methodology will effectively address an information/data gap or lead to effective implementation of prioritized projects within one-to-two years of completion.
Sequence	Is in the correct sequence and is independent of other actions being taken first.
Threat	Addresses a high potential threat to salmonid habitat.
Stewardship	Clearly describes and funds stewardship of the area or facility for more than 10 years.
Landowner	Landowners are willing to have work done.
Implementation	Actions are scheduled, funded, and ready to take place and have few or no known constraints to successful implementation as well as other projects that may result from this project.

	<b>Medium Certainty Project</b>
Appropriate	Is moderately appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.
Approach	Uses scientific methods that may have been tested but the results are incomplete. Methods will effectively address an information/data gap or lead to effective implementation of prioritized projects within three-to-five years of completion.
Sequence	Is dependent on other actions being taken first that are outside the scope of this project.
Threat	Addresses a moderate potential threat to salmonid habitat.
Stewardship	Clearly describes but does not fund stewardship of the area or facility for more than 10 years.
Landowner	Landowners may have been contacted and are likely to allow work to be done.
Implementation	Has few or no known constraints to successful implementation as well as other projects that may result from this project.

	<b>Low Certainty Project</b>
Appropriate	The methodology does not appear to meet the goals and objectives of the project.
Approach	Uses methods that have not been tested or proven to be effective in past uses.
Sequence	May be in the wrong sequence with other protection and restoration actions.
Threat	Addresses a low potential for a threat to salmonid habitat.
Stewardship	Does not describe or fund stewardship of the area or facility.
Landowner	Landowner willingness is unknown.
Implementation	Actions are unscheduled, unfunded, and not ready to take place and has several constraints to successful implementation.

## PART V – STAFF REPORT

### Patterns and Trends – Strategy focus and fit of lists

The purpose of this section of the staff report is to present results of analysis of Review Panel information, with particular emphasis on identifying patterns and trends that may be of value to the SRFB as part of their 5<sup>th</sup> Round funding decision process. Review Panel ratings and narratives for specificity and focus of lead entity strategies and fit of lists to strategies are found in Part II and Attachment 3 of this report, respectively.

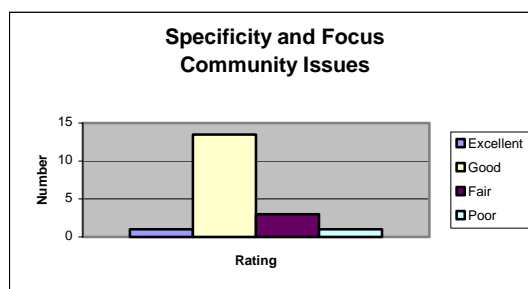
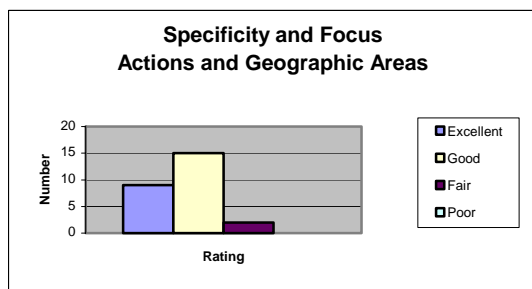
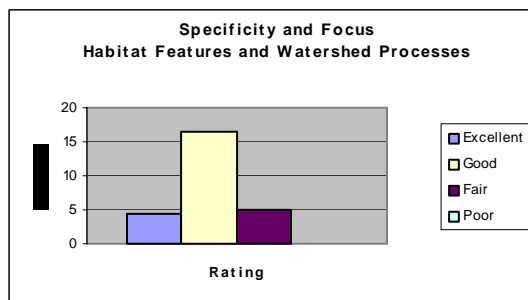
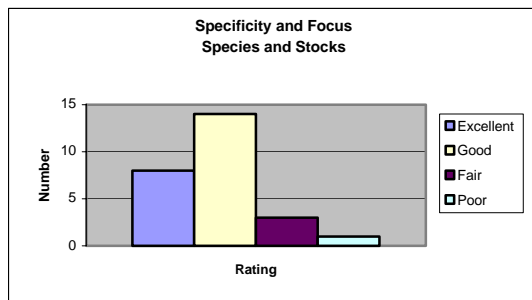
The Review Panel, under the direction of the SRFB, evaluated the specificity and focus of strategies in four areas, rating each *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, or *poor*:

- species and stocks,
- habitat features and watershed processes,
- habitat restoration and protection actions and geographic areas, and
- community issues.

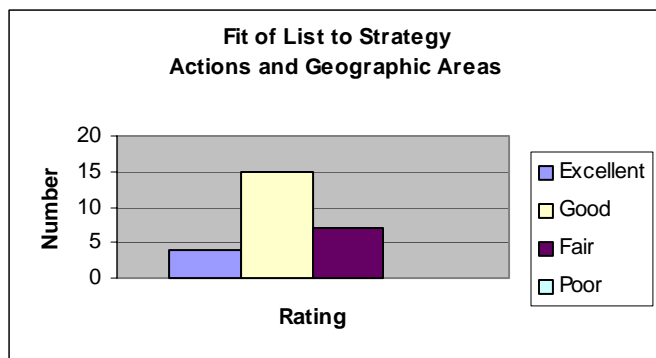
In addition, the Review Panel evaluated how well each lead entity's project list reflected priorities in their strategies in two categories:

- habitat restoration and protection actions and geographic areas, and
- fit of project ranking.

The ratings of the Review Panel suggest that lead entity strategies were fairly specific in many respects, as indicated by the five graphs below. There were very few poor ratings and relatively few fair ratings. Ratings tended to be higher for species and stocks, and actions and geographic areas than they were for habitat features and watershed processes, and community issues for reasons noted by the Review Panel.



The Review Panel evaluations of fit-to-strategy found that most lead entities fared reasonably well, particularly for habitat and protection actions and geographic areas as



shown in the graph to the left.

However, the Review Panel found that while fit-to-strategy ratings were reliable for actions and geographic areas, ratings for fit of project rankings could be misleading to the extent that strategies against which fit was determined were vague or not focused. They recommended that fit to project ranking ratings not be used at face value on a statewide basis, and

emphasized the value in use of narratives instead.

The Review Panel's ratings for all lead entities, in alphabetical order, are shown in the color-coded Review Panel Summary Chart (Table V-1). That chart reflects changes that were made to ratings as a result of comments received by the Review Panel on the draft report. Of the 41 ratings that were brought to the attention of the Review Panel by lead entities, 10 were adjusted upward by the Review Panel, typically by one rating step (e.g., fair changed to good).

Although it is possible to sort the summary chart from excellent to poor for any given category or combination of categories, it is difficult to easily see broad patterns and trends across categories due to the large number of total ratings (156). In addition, strategies receiving a given rating for one or several categories typically did not receive the same ratings for all other categories. Other methods are needed to be able to discern patterns and visualize trends in the information across lead entities.

We explored the following questions:

- Can the ratings be used to sort the 26 lead entities?
- Are there discernable groupings among the list of 26 lead entities? If so, what are the groupings?

The general approach used in this analysis was to convert ratings (excellent, good, fair, poor) to numbers (4, 3, 2, 1) to facilitate spreadsheet analysis of alternative sorting schemes, to determine whether groupings were discernable, and to see how these affected the order of lead entities. This analytical approach is transparent and repeatable. Rigorous statistical analyses were not applied.

Table V-1. Review Panel Rating Summary Chart

Lead Entity	Specificity and Focus				Fit to Strategy	
	Species	Habitat/Proc	Actions/Areas	Community	Actions/Areas	Fit of project ranking
Chelan	Fair	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Foster	Good	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	NA
Grays Harbor	Good	Fair	<b>Good</b>	Good-Fair	Fair	Good
Hood Canal	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Island	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Fair	Excellent
King 8	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
King 9	Good	Excellent	Good	<b>Good</b>	Good	Excellent
Kitsap	Good	<b>Good</b>	Good	Fair	Good	Good
Klickitat	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good
Lower Columbia	Excellent	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Good
Mason	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Excellent
Nisqually	Excellent	Excellent-Good	<b>Good</b>	Good	<b>Excellent</b>	Excellent
North Olympic	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Okanogan	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	<b>Good</b>
Pacific	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Good	Fair
Pend Oreille	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Pierce	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Quinault	Poor	Fair	Fair	Poor	Good	Good
San Juan	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Fair	Excellent
Skagit	Excellent	Excellent-Good	Good	Good	Good	Excellent
Snake	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	<b>Good</b>
Snohomish	Good	Excellent-Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Stillaguamish	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Thurston	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	<b>Good</b>
Whatcom	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good	Fair	Excellent
Yakima	Excellent	Good	Good	Poor	Fair	Excellent

NA = not applicable (only 1 project on list)

grey shading indicates RP recommended these ratings not be used at face value

*Italics* indicate RP received specific request to increase rating in draft report; **bold** indicates rating increased from draft to final report

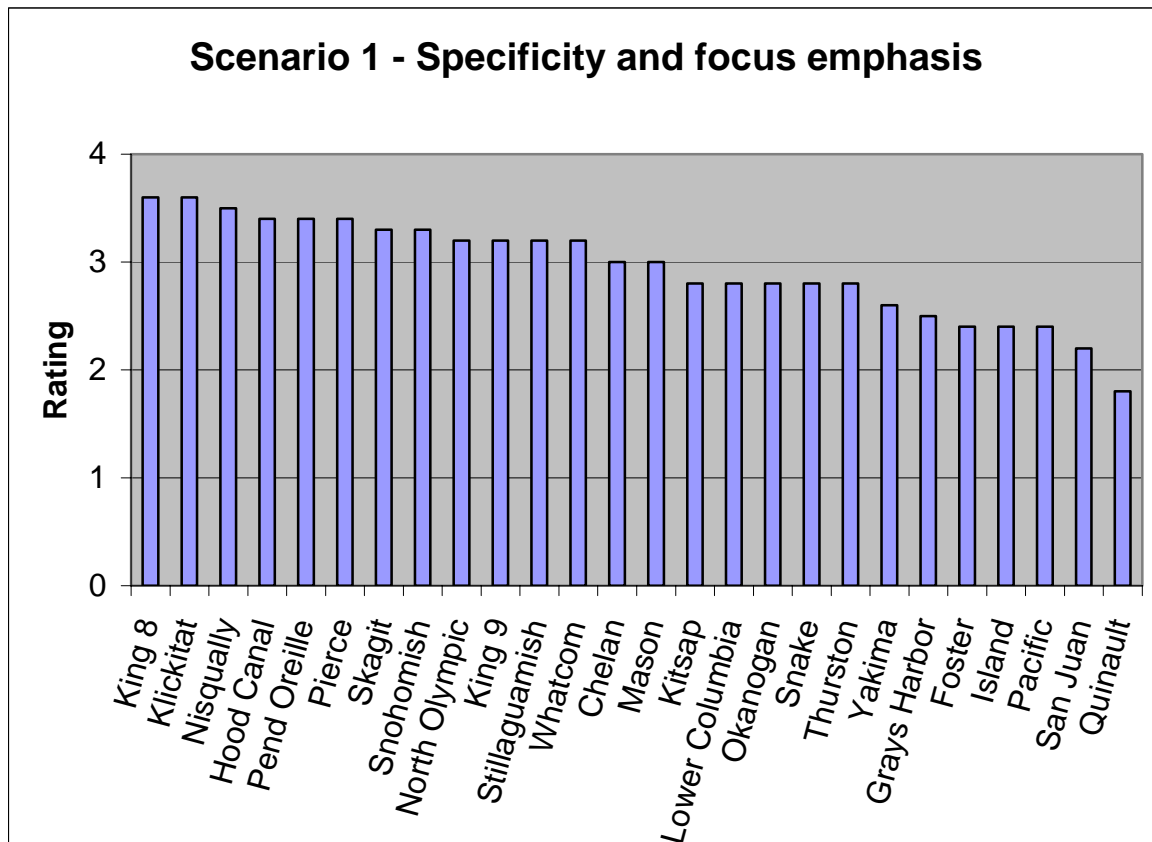
The Review Panel (see Part II) recognized the central importance of fit-to-strategy information but cautioned against using “fit of project ranking” ratings at face value, and instead recommended use of the associated narratives. Consistent with that recommendation and feedback from the SRFB at its October 28, 2004, meeting, staff adjusted all “fit of project ranking” ratings using the narratives. We made no adjustments where the project ranking fit well to specific and focused strategies. However, where the Review Panel indicated fit to project ranking ratings were high but strategies were indeterminate, vague, or unfocused, downward adjustments were made (see Table V-3 at the end of this chapter). These adjusted ratings were used in Scenarios 2 and 3, below.

Three scenarios for ranking lead entities based on the Review Panel’s ratings were developed by staff. Although numerous other scenarios are possible, these three are based on SRFB, ITF and Review Panel recommendations and bracket a range of relative emphasis on specificity/focus versus fit-to-strategy.

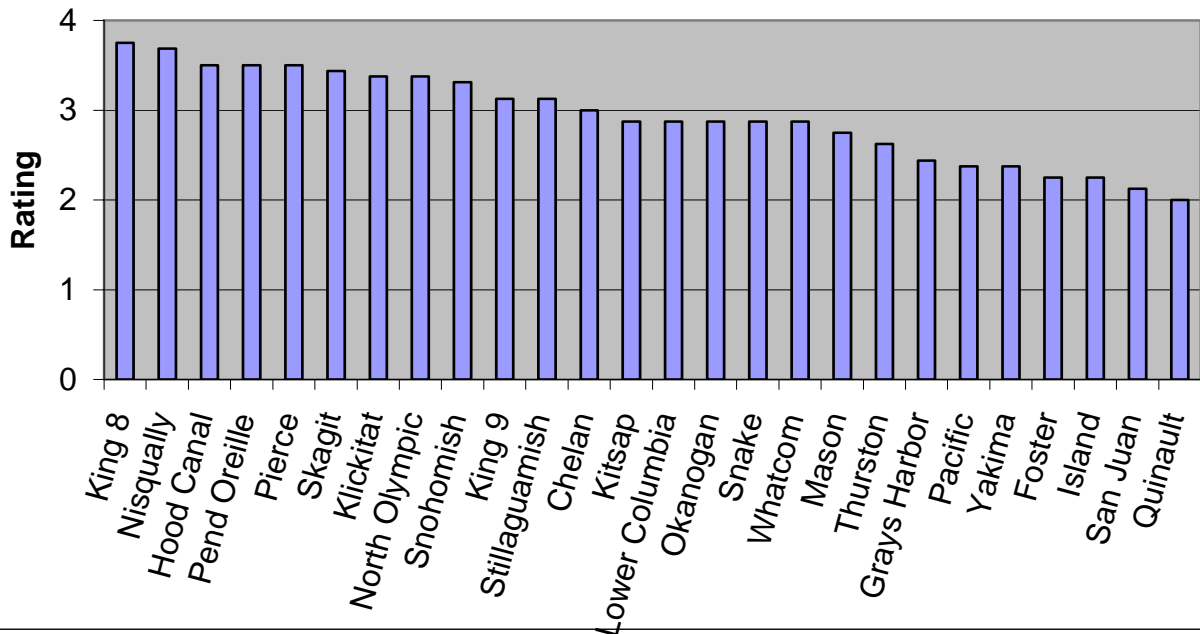
1. ***Emphasis on specificity and focus*** – This scenario included only those five ratings that the Review Panel felt could be applied consistently statewide at face value. This excluded the ratings for “fit of project ranking” as recommended by the Review Panel if these ratings are not adjusted based on narratives. The five ratings (four specificity and focus, one fit-to-strategy) were averaged. This scenario emphasized specificity and focus over list fit to strategy due to the shear number of categories (4 to 1). This scenario relies on Review Panel ratings alone and does not utilize information associated with project ranking and its fit-to-strategy from narratives.
2. ***Equal emphasis on specificity/focus and fit-to-strategy*** – This scenario uses all six ratings. It extends Scenario 1 by using information from narratives regarding “fit of project rankings” to adjust ratings for that category. These adjusted ratings for “fit of project rankings” were averaged with ratings from the other fit-to-strategy category (actions and geographic areas), resulting in an average fit-to-strategy. Likewise, the four ratings for specificity/focus were averaged. Finally, the two average scores were averaged. Thus, this scenario merges specificity and focus into one rating, and treats it equally with the merged fit-to-strategy rating. The result was that specificity/focus and fit information had equal contribution to the overall rating.
3. ***Emphasis on fit-to-strategy*** – This scenario used the same six ratings as in Scenario 2 but applied a weighting scheme that places an emphasis on fit-to-strategy. The SRFB Issues Task Force (ITF) recommended this scheme, which applies different weights to each category based on the ITF’s conclusion about the relative importance of each category in the overall analysis. Using these weights, the ITF scheme computes an overall score for fit-to-strategy. Likewise, an overall score between zero and one for specificity/focus is calculated. The fit-to-strategy score is modified by the specificity/focus score by multiplying them together (see Table V-4). This means that a lead entity with a perfect specificity/focus rating would receive all of the points calculated for fit-to-strategy. For strategies with less than excellent ratings for focus/specificity, the total fit-to-strategy score is decreased to the extent that the specificity/focus score is decreased. This approach used all available

information (ratings plus narratives) in a manner consistent with emphasis on fit-to-strategy information.

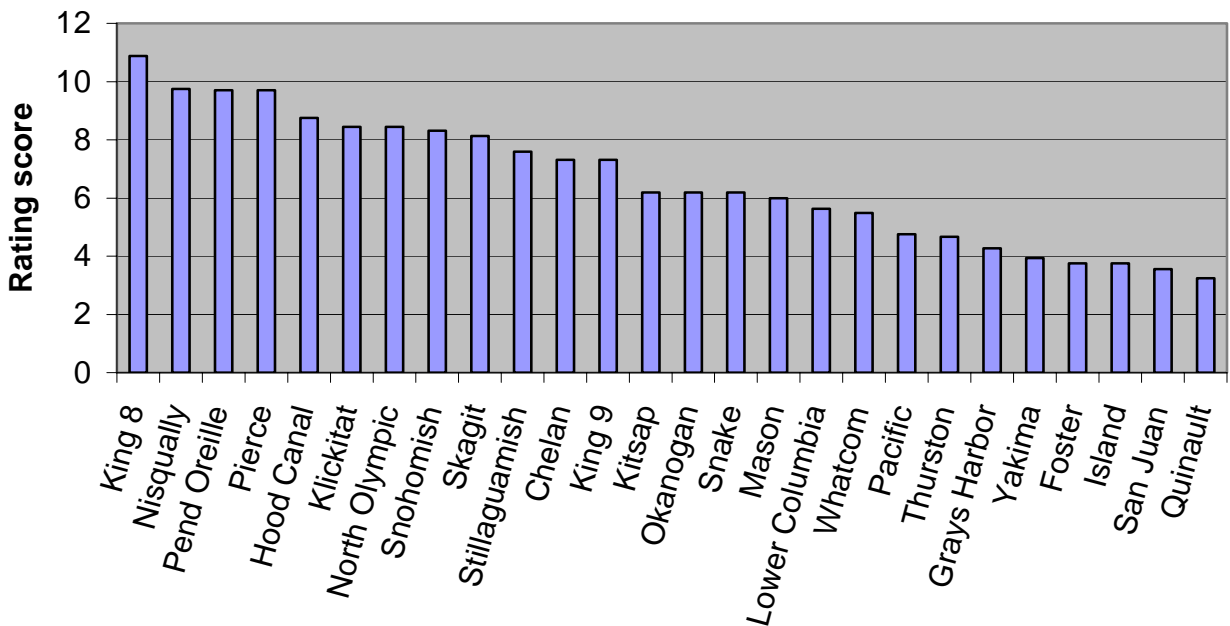
The graphs below illustrate the distribution of lead entity ratings for each of the three scenarios. Each scenario shows differences among lead entities, with Scenario 1 depicting less of a gradient than Scenarios 2 and 3. Scenario 3 appears to have more ability to discern differences.



### Scenario 2 - Equal emphasis on specificity/focus and fit



### Scenario 3 - Fit emphasis



For comparative purposes, the order of lead entities resulting from each scenario is presented below showing a fairly consistent pattern for each scenario. When viewed together, three groupings comprised of the same lead entities become apparent. Although the exact order of lead entities varies to some extent within each group, the same lead entities fall within the same group for each scenario. Thus, three different approaches to analyzing the Review Panel's ratings produces the same three clusters, with the highest rated lead entity project lists in Group A, those with moderately rated project lists in Group B, and those with the lowest rated lists in Group C.

Table V-2. Lead Entity Ranking Scenarios			
1 - Specificity and focus emphasis	2 - Equal emphasis on specificity/focus and fit	3 - Fit emphasis	
King 8	King 8	King 8	Group A
Klickitat	Nisqually	Nisqually	
Nisqually	Hood Canal	Pend Oreille	
Hood Canal	Pend Oreille	Pierce	
Pend Oreille	Pierce	Hood Canal	
Pierce	Skagit	Klickitat	
Skagit	Klickitat	North Olympic	
Snohomish	North Olympic	Snohomish	
North Olympic	Snohomish	Skagit	
King 9	King 9	Stillaguamish	Group B
Stillaguamish	Stillaguamish	Chelan	
Whatcom	Chelan	King 9	
Chelan	Kitsap	Kitsap	
Mason	Lower Columbia	Okanogan	
Kitsap	Okanogan	Snake	
Lower Columbia	Snake	Mason	
Okanogan	Whatcom	Lower Columbia	
Snake	Mason	Whatcom	
Thurston	Thurston	Pacific	Group C
Yakima	Grays Harbor	Thurston	
Grays Harbor	Pacific	Grays Harbor	
Foster	Yakima	Yakima	
Island	Foster	Foster	
Pacific	Island	Island	
San Juan	San Juan	San Juan	
Quinault	Quinault	Quinault	

Higher Ratings



The Review Panel stressed (see Part II) that there is information in narratives that provides useful clarification and context for interpretation of ratings. This information may also help clarify for lead entities how future improvements might be made. For example, the lead entities that the Review Panel found to be “among the best” in addressing specificity and focus rating categories or aspects of those categories were:

Species and stocks:	Yakima
Habitat features and processes:	Nisqually
Actions and areas:	North Olympic and Pend Oreille
Community issues:	Klickitat

### Details of Ratings Adjusted by Narratives

Shown below are Review Panel fit of project list ratings and ratings adjusted for this report based on narratives.

<b>Table V-3. Adjustment of “Fit of Project Ranking” Ratings</b>		
<b>Lead entity</b>	<b>Fit of project ranking</b>	
	<b>Review Panel ratings</b>	<b>Ratings adjusted by narratives</b>
King 8	Excellent	Excellent
Nisqually	Excellent	Excellent
Hood Canal	Excellent	Excellent
Pend Oreille	Excellent	Excellent/Good
Pierce	Excellent	Excellent/Good
Skagit	Excellent	Excellent
Snohomish	Excellent	Excellent/Good
North Olympic	Excellent	Excellent
King 9	Excellent	Good
Stillaguamish	Excellent	Good
Whatcom	Excellent	Good/Fair
Chelan	Excellent	Good
Mason	Excellent	Fair
Yakima	Excellent	Fair
Island	Excellent	Fair
San Juan	Excellent	Fair
Klickitat	Good	Good
Kitsap	Good	Good
Lower Columbia	Good	Good
Okanogan	Good	Good
Snake	Good	Good
Thurston	Good	Good/Fair
Grays Harbor	Good	Good/Fair
Quinault	Good	Fair
Pacific	Fair	Fair
Foster	Not applicable	Fair

## Details of ITF Approach Used For Scenario 3

Below are the scoring methods for Scenario 3 – Fit-to-strategy emphasis (as recommended by the Issues Task Force 2-2-04).

**Table V-4**

### ITF Recommended Method for Computing a Single Score for Each Lead Entity

<b>Criteria: specificity and focus of strategy</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Total possible points</b>
Targeted species/stocks	1	4
Targeted habitat features and watershed processes	2	8
Priority actions and areas	3	12
Community issues	2	8
Total points possible		32
Multiplier for specificity and focus = (Total points)/32		1.00
<b>Criteria: fit to strategy</b>		
Priority actions and areas	2	8
Fit of project ranking	1	4
Total points possible		12
Total Score = (Specificity and focus multiplier) x (fit to strategy score)		

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Fifth Round Timeline

- **February 27: Final SRFB policy manual and applications forms available.**
- **February-April: Review Panel meets with lead entities.** The meetings provide the panel with an early opportunity to ask questions, understand the strategies, provide feedback, develop rapport, and provide the lead entities with written comments.
- **March-April: Application workshops.** SRFB staff conducts application workshops around the state. The workshops are coordinated with lead entities and focus on helping potential applicants complete the forms.
- **March-June: Technical advisors meet with lead entities** and project sponsors, make project site visits, and note projects of concern.
- **July 16: Lead entity strategy, project lists and applications due.** Lead entities sent their strategies and summaries, prioritized project lists and ranking criteria (if not contained in the strategy).
- **July 19-August 20: Staff reviews applications.** SRFB staff reviews applications for completeness and eligibility.
- **August 23-September 17: Technical advisors review project materials** and work with lead entities to address projects of concern.
- **September 20-October 8: Lead entities make presentations to Review Panel.** Review Panel meets with each lead entity to receive a formal presentation on the strategy and project list. The presentations were held at three locations around the state.
- **October 11-November 5: Draft report.** Review Panel develops preliminary conclusions and recommendations and sends a draft report to lead entities. Lead entities provide written comments to the panel. Lead entities were given an opportunity to meet with the panel about the draft report.
- **November 8-12: Review Panel prepares final report.** Review Panel finalizes its conclusions and recommendations.
- **November 15-29: Public comment.** Two-week public review and comment on the final funding recommendations.
- **December 2-3: SRFB allocates funding.** SRFB adopts project lists and allocates funding in an open public meeting.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### Evaluation Criteria for Specificity and Fit of Strategy

The SRFB's Review Panel will evaluate how well each lead entity's list of projects addresses the priorities identified in the lead entity's strategy. To accomplish this the Review Panel uses a series of scored evaluation questions.

The SRFB agreed that it would be inappropriate to evaluate the overall quality of lead entity strategies for the fifth grant round since there has been too little time for lead entities to react to the comments from the fourth round technical advisors evaluations and the new *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*. However, it is difficult to evaluate how well a lead entity's list of projects addresses the priorities identified in the lead entity's strategy if the strategy is vague, nonspecific, or lacks focus. Therefore, the Review Panel will evaluate the specificity and focus of strategies.

#### **Specificity and Focus of Strategy**

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The Review Panel's evaluation of the specificity and focus of a strategy will be performed in four categories: species, habitat features and watershed processes, actions and geographic areas, and community issues. These areas are based on the *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*. For each of the four categories the Review Panel will rate the strategy *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, or *poor*.

#### **Species and stocks<sup>3</sup>**

The Review Panel will consider:

- Does the strategy clearly identify all of the stocks in the WRIA(s) comprising the lead entity area?
- Is the status of each stock presented?
- Are one or more stocks prioritized for habitat restoration and/or protection actions?
- Is there a clear and supportable rationale for establishing these priorities?
- Do the project ranking criteria reflect the priorities?

In an *excellent* strategy: The strategy clearly identifies all salmonid species and stocks<sup>4</sup> in the lead entity area, and the status of each stock; one or more stocks are prioritized<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>3</sup> See *A Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*, October 10, 2003, for details.

<sup>4</sup> "Stock" is a salmonid subpopulation as designated in the *Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory*. Alternatively, lead entities may choose the term "population" as used by NOAA-Fisheries.

<sup>5</sup> This means that the lead entity has identified one or several species or stocks as the highest priority for habitat protection and/or restoration actions. Lead entities are not expected to prioritize one listed species or stock over another, although they may want to prioritize one listed stock of the same species over another if NOAA-Fisheries or USFWS recovery documents have identified high priority populations

there is a clear and supportable rationale is presented to justify the priorities; and the project ranking criteria<sup>6</sup> reflect these priorities.

#### Habitat features and watershed processes

The Review Panel will consider:

- Does the strategy clearly identify watershed processes (i.e., habitat forming processes) that are limiting factors for prioritized stocks?
- Does the strategy clearly identify habitat features (i.e., habitat conditions) that are limiting factors for prioritized stocks?
- Does the strategy prioritize limiting watershed processes?
- Does the strategy prioritize limiting habitat features?
- Is there a clear and supportable rationale for establishing these priorities?
- Do the project ranking criteria reflect the above priorities?

In an *excellent* strategy: The strategy clearly identifies limiting habitat features and watershed processes and prioritizes these habitat features and watershed processes for the benefit of priority species and stocks; there is a clear and supportable rationale for these priorities; and the lead entity's ranking criteria reflect these priorities.

#### Actions and geographic areas

The Review Panel will consider:

- Does the strategy clearly identify specific actions for restoration and/or protection of targeted habitat features and watershed processes?
- Does the strategy prioritize actions for restoration and/or protection of targeted habitat features and watershed processes?
- Does the strategy identify specific geographic areas associated with prioritized actions?
- Is there a clear and supportable rationale for establishing these priorities?
- Do the project ranking criteria reflect these priorities?

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for their area. A lead entity may also choose to prioritize unlisted species and stocks. If a lead entity strategy adopts a multispecies approach, it is important that the species or stocks be identified along with the rationale for selecting them.

<sup>6</sup> The Review Panel will expect that the ranking criteria used by the lead entity will be part of the lead entity strategy or will be submitted with the strategy.

In an *excellent* strategy: The strategy clearly identifies and prioritizes specific actions and geographic areas for the benefit of priority species and stocks; there is a clear and supportable rationale for these priorities; and the project ranking criteria reflect these priorities<sup>7</sup>.

### Community issues

Lead entity citizens committees often consider non-technical issues when evaluating and prioritizing projects. Projects may be ranked higher by the committee because of strong community support or because the project may be useful in helping build future community support, or if there are benefits to the community in addition to those for salmon. How the consideration of community values<sup>8</sup> and community support<sup>9</sup> might be addressed in a lead entity strategy is discussed in detail in the *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*.

If community issues are taken into consideration by a lead entity in evaluating and ranking projects, the issues being considered should be identified and justified in the lead entity strategy. If not, the strategy should at least provide for an effective process to evaluate and weigh community issues as they arise.

If community issues were taken into consideration by a lead entity in evaluating and ranking projects, the Review Panel will evaluate the specificity and focus of the strategy in this area.

The Review Panel will consider:

- Does the strategy clearly identify community issues and concerns regarding salmon habitat protection and restoration?
- Does the strategy propose specific actions for building or maintaining community support for salmon protection and restoration efforts? For the highest biological priority actions and areas?
- Does the strategy prioritize these actions?
- Does the strategy articulate what community values will be taken into consideration in evaluating and ranking projects?
- Is there a clear and supportable rationale for establishing these priorities?
- Do the project ranking criteria reflect the priorities?
- Does the strategy provide for an effective process for evaluating and weighing community values and taking these values into consideration when developing and prioritizing project lists?

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<sup>7</sup> Not all priority actions need to translate into priority areas of the watershed but all priority areas should have priority actions. See the *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*.

<sup>8</sup> "Community values" include social, cultural, economic and political values. Examples include values, attitudes, and beliefs regarding the role of government, private property rights, land use planning and regulation, economic use of land, and the value of endangered species.

<sup>9</sup> "Community support" could mean willing landowner(s), support by elected officials, a supportive economic sector (e.g. agriculture, forestry, and tourism), or support from other people or entities affected by proposed actions.

In an *excellent* strategy: The strategy provides for an effective process for evaluating and weighing community values and taking these values into consideration when developing and prioritizing project lists; proposes specific actions for building or maintaining community support for highest biological priority actions and areas; lists community values that will be taken into consideration in project evaluation and ranking; and the project evaluation criteria reflect these priorities and values.

## **Fit of the Project List to the Strategy**

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The Review Panel's evaluation of the fit of the lead entity list of projects to the lead entity strategy will be performed using two categories: priority actions and areas, and project ranking. These areas are based on the *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*. For each of the evaluation categories, the Review Panel will rate the strategy *excellent*, *good*, *fair*, or *poor*.

### **Actions and geographic areas**

The Review Panel will consider:

- The extent the project list addresses the highest priority action and areas, and
- The extent that those actions and areas benefit the highest priority stocks, limiting watershed processes, and limiting habitat features.

In an *excellent* strategy: The entire project list addresses the highest priority actions and areas<sup>10</sup>, benefiting the highest priority stocks and the highest priority habitat features and watershed processes.

### **Fit of project ranking**

The Review Panel will consider the extent the rank order of the project list addresses the highest priority:

- Stocks
- Limiting watershed processes
- Limiting habitat features
- Actions
- Geographic areas
- Community interests

In an *excellent* strategy: The rank order of the entire list of projects fits the priorities (stocks, habitat features, watershed processes, actions, geographic areas, community issues) presented in the strategy. That is, the highest ranked projects fit the highest priorities identified in the strategy and, if there are projects that address lower priorities in the strategy, they are lower in the list.

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<sup>10</sup> Not all priority actions need to translate into priority areas of the watershed but all priority areas should have priority actions. See the *Guide to Lead Entity Strategy Development*.

ATTACHMENT 3
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## Review Panel Evaluations of 26 Lead Entities

See separate PDF file consisting of 117 pages.

([http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/SRFB/5th\\_Round/Attach-3\\_RP\\_Evals\\_of\\_LE\\_Strategies.pdf](http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/SRFB/5th_Round/Attach-3_RP_Evals_of_LE_Strategies.pdf))

## Evaluation Criteria for Individual Projects

### SRFB Manual 18, Appendix C

To help ensure that every project funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board is technically sound the Review Panel's technical advisors will note for the Review Panel and SRFB any projects they believe have low benefit to salmon, a low likelihood of being successful, or have costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits of the project<sup>11</sup>. The technical advisors will not otherwise rate, score, or rank projects. The Review Panel technical members will take into account that at the time of application to the SRFB, some restoration projects will not have been completely designed and some acquisition projects may not have specific parcels identified. It is expected that projects will follow best management practices when available, and will meet any state and federal permitting requirements.

#### Criteria

For restoration and protection projects, the technical advisors will advise the Review Panel that a project is not technically sound and cannot be significantly improved if:

1. It is unclear there is a problem to salmonids the project is addressing.
2. Information provided, or current understanding of the system, is not sufficient to determine the need for, or the benefit of, the project.
3. The project is dependent on other key conditions or processes being addressed first.
4. The project has a high cost relative to the anticipated benefits and the project sponsor and lead entity have failed to justify the costs.
5. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.
6. The project may be in wrong sequence with other habitat protection, assessments or restoration actions in the watershed.
7. The project uses a technique that has not been considered to be successful in the past.
8. It is unclear how the project will achieve its stated objectives.
9. It is unlikely that the project will achieve its stated objective.
10. There is low potential for threat to habitat conditions if the protection project is not completed.
11. The project design is not adequate or the project is improperly sited.
12. The stewardship plan is insufficient or there is inadequate commitment to stewardship and maintenance of the project and this would likely jeopardize the project's success.
13. In addition to applying the above criteria, the technical advisors also will advise the Review Panel if they believe the project has not been shown to address an

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<sup>11</sup> These projects will remain on the project lists evaluated by the Review Panel and forwards to the SRFB unless the lead entity decides to withdraw them. Only the SRFB has the authority to remove a project from the lead entity list.

important habitat condition or watershed process in the area or if the project's main focus is to support other needs such as general education, property protection or water supply.

For assessment projects, the project will be red-flagged by the technical advisors if:

1. It is not clear there is a problem to salmonids the project is addressing.
2. The project does not address an information need important to understanding the watershed, is not directly relevant to project development or sequencing, and will not clearly lead to beneficial projects.
3. The methodology does not appear to be appropriate to meet the goals and objectives of the project.
4. The project has a high cost relative to the anticipated benefits.
5. The assessment does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed, or may be in the wrong sequence with other habitat assessment or restoration activities.
6. The assessment uses a technique that has not been proven successful in past applications.
7. There are significant constraints to the implementation of high priority project(s) following completion of the assessment.
8. It is unclear how the assessment will achieve its stated objectives.
9. It is unlikely that the assessment will achieve its stated objective.
10. In addition to applying the above criteria, the technical advisors also will advise the Review Panel if they believe the project minimally addresses a limiting life history stage or habitat type that limits salmon productivity or its main focus is to support other needs such as general education, property protection, or water supply.

## ATTACHMENT 5

### Individual SRFB Project Review Panel Technical Advisor 5<sup>th</sup> Round Project Comments Forms - for Projects of Concern - Listed Alphabetically by Lead Entity

Lead Entity: **Foster Creek**  
Project Sponsor: **Foster Creek Conservation District**  
Project Name: **East Foster Creek Sediment Control**  
Project Number: **04-1666R**  
Project Location: **East Foster Creek**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

We appreciate the effort to estimate sediment volumes potentially removed by the project; however, we are still missing the context for how much this project will affect fine sediment levels in habitat far downstream. We understand that the project is trying to address the priority limiting factor in the watershed, but do not know how many more projects will need to be done before meaningful changes can be expected in habitat conditions within lower Foster Creek. We do not have any estimate of the sediment production from the West Fork or Middle Fork of Foster Creek. The channel incision documented in the West Fork along with the highly efficient transport through its confined lower reach may make this area an even greater contributor of sediment to lower Foster Creek. The proposed project in East Fork Foster Creek will undoubtedly reduce sediment load to the channel, but there is still insufficient information to determine the benefits of the project to the downstream inhabited reach.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?
3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?
4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **King 9**  
Project Sponsor: **Seattle Art Museum**  
Project Name: **Elliot Bay Nearshore Restoration at Olympic Sculpture Park**  
Project Number: **04-1421R**  
Project Location: **Seattle**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

This project has substantial public support from backers of the new sculpture park and proposes to enhance a short stretch of beach habitat. Proponents propose a beach cover and several hundred feet of fish habitat bench. The project is proposed to support forage fish spawning, epibenthic production and juvenile salmon migration and kelp production. However, the project is sited along a heavily degraded and urbanized stretch of nearshore that will compromise its function and require regular long-term maintenance.

Examples of inherent ecological constraints include altered wave conditions, human need for view corridors and access, and heavy requirement for armored rock.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

The beach cove portion of this proposal is the most likely aspect of the project to provide some, though limited, habitat function from the creation of a fine sediment, backshore, riparian vegetation and shallow subtidal habitat. However, the processes that would normally maintain these components are notably absent. The site is therefore reliant upon human intervention for its sustainability. This reliance on human intervention and lack of fully functioning habitat features makes this site less certain to serve as a “pearl” for juvenile salmon to rest and feed and raises uncertainty over long term success. It is agreed that the cove will be more productive than a stretch of armor rock but the technical advisors do not agree that the expenditure of the requested funds is worth the improvement in nearshore production given the inherent constraints at the site. This project represents a philosophical shift in how and where to spend funds and it is not entirely clear that from an ecological perspective this site is the appropriate place to make that shift.

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Lower Columbia**  
Project Sponsor: **Grays River Habitat Enhancement District**  
Project Name: **PUD Bar Habitat Enhancement – Grays River**  
Project Number: **04-1448R**  
Project Location: **Grays River**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

Upon further review of the supplemental material provided by the applicant, as well as a field visit by a technical advisor, we unfortunately still have concerns about the restoration approach for this reach of the Grays River and have retained the “project of concern” designation.

We view this site of the Grays River as a natural depositional bar. These features are naturally prone to sediment deposition and minor channel shifting. Without a better understanding of the sediment supply and transport to this reach, however, it would be premature to conclude that the site will continue to widen significantly from its present state. The 1966 aerial photographs contained in the Grays River Assessment report shows that the current channel location is similar to its location 40 years ago. While bank erosion and channel widening has occurred as a result of the 1996 floods and potentially from the 1999 Gorley Springs avulsion, the channel pattern has not changed significantly (e.g., from a depositional bar (braided channel pattern) to a straight channel pattern). The river gravels underlying the floodplain silt deposits are an indication that the river has historically shifted its location across this area, so the current loss of channel “stability” may not be that unnatural in a historical context. The additional information provided discusses the ability of the project to pass sediment (as this was a specific concern brought up by the technical advisors relative to the structures becoming buried). The result of the calculations suggest the channel depth of 4.5 feet is not sufficient to successfully transport sediment and the conclusion reached is the channel depth needs to be 8 to 9 feet. This assessment raises another concern about what will happen upstream and downstream of the site when the channel cross section is changed and this is no longer a depositional bar. What would be the impact of the sediment transported downstream and the changes upstream from the increased water surface elevations?

We support the floodplain revegetation efforts of the project. It appears that this could be accomplished without requiring excavation and engineered structures to deflect flows and aid sediment transport. For direct habitat restoration we advocate a more passive approach with placement of small wood jams that allows natural river dynamics to accommodate the high sediment load and create improved habitat conditions over the long term. The applicant noted they are willing to work with the permitting agencies to ensure a strong wood component for the project.

We share the same long-term goals of establishing dense riparian vegetation dominated by conifer, but we are uncertain about the necessity and efficacy of imposing a more “stable” channel dimension in the short term. Therefore, we still do not feel that the project properly accounts for the conditions and processes in the watershed.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?
3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?
4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Lower Columbia**  
Project Sponsor: **Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group**  
Project Name: **Middle Wind River Habitat Enhancement**  
Project Number: **04-1554 R**  
Project Location: **Wind River**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

It is unclear how the project will achieve its stated objectives, and the projects main focus is property protection.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

Show how installation of the rock structures would improve spawning habitat and channel complexity. The main concern is the aggrading reach relative to the rock structures. The project sponsor provided information that the structures may become partially buried, but noted they would still direct shear stresses toward the center of the channel. How will this improve spawning habitat and channel complexity if the channel form they create gets buried?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?
4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **North Olympic Peninsula**  
Project Sponsor: **Science/Technology/Manufacturer**  
Project Name: **RENEW Clallam Bay Nearshore**  
Project Number: **04-1593 N**  
Project Type: **Non-Capital**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

1. The project has a high cost relative to the anticipated benefits.
2. The assessment does not account for the processes in the upper watershed.
3. There are significant constraints to the implementation of estuarine, alongshore, and watershed projects.
4. Given the potential restoration projects initially identified, it is unlikely that the assessment will achieve its stated objectives of restoring habitat diversity, while addressing causes rather than symptoms.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?

If assessment were needed, a more specific plan to address a smaller subset of issues would be a good starting point.

It seems like this project is dependent on the Clallam River Habitat Assessment study, especially the stream hydrology. Recommend completing inventory and assessment work in upper watershed with implementation of major sediment control and human impact measures before determining course of action at mouth.

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Agree that a planning approach is appropriate to this complex issue.

Lead Entity: **Quinault Nation**

Project Sponsor: **Quinault Indian Nation**

Project Name: **QIN Sediment Del & Fish Passage Assmt**

Project Number: **04-1696 N**

Project Type: **Non-Capital**

1. Is this a "project of concern" according to the SRFB's criteria? Y ☒ N ☐  
Why?

The information provided is not sufficient to determine the benefit of the project.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?

If the project would have focused on inventorying and prioritizing fish passage barriers and followed the guidelines provided in SRFB Manual 18d section 14e WDFW Guidelines Fish Barrier Inventories the project would have been technically sound.

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

The technical advisors encourage the sponsor to reapply next round and focus the project on completing a comprehensive barrier for the WRIA. The WDFW Technical Applications Program is available to provide assistance and crew training to develop a quality project.

Lead Entity: **Skagit**

Project Sponsor: **Skagit Land Trust**

Project Name: **Wiseman Creek-Minkler Lake Protection**

Project Number: **04-1632A**

Project Type: **Acquisition**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria? Y ☒ N ☐  
Why?

There currently is no clearly defined proposal for restoring salmon habitat on Parcel No. 1, which makes it difficult to determine whether the stewardship plan is sufficient to meet the goal of salmon habitat restoration. Because of this, the acquisition may be in the wrong sequence.

For Parcel No. 2, existing federal, state, and local wetland protection requirements already protect salmon habitat features of this site, indicating that there is a low threat to habitat conditions if the parcel is not acquired.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

Applicant needs to identify a definite habitat restoration plan for Parcel No. 1 and demonstration of specific threats to priority salmon habitat conditions on Parcel No. 2.

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

This project would be strengthened as a combination project, by adding the preferred restoration alternative identified in the final Wiseman Creek Feasibility Study (#00-1735N) to be completed next year.

Lead Entity: **Snake River**

Project Sponsor: **Columbia Conservation Dist**

Project Name: **Tucannon River Sediment Intrusion Assess**

Project Number: **04-1611 N**

Project Type: **Non-Capital**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria? Y ☒ N ☐  
Why?

We appreciate the information that baseline data from the 1980’s can be used to measure changes in fine sediment levels, but we still have significant concerns about the small sample size relative to the variability in the percent fines at a site or reach level, and the inability of this assessment to diagnose the cause of sediment problems. The data developed from this project is unlikely to clearly lead to beneficial projects.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Snake River**  
Project Sponsor: **Blue Mountain RC&D**  
Project Name: **Ski Bluewood Parking Lot**  
Project Number: **04-1621 R**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

The map of water sample locations was helpful, but we still have a number of concerns about this project that were detailed in previous comments. The project is likely to have limited benefits to salmonids and has a high cost relative to benefits.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?
3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?
4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Whatcom – WRIA 1**  
Project Sponsor: **Port of Bellingham**  
Project Name: **Squalicum Waterway Restoration**  
Project Number: **04-1491N**  
Project Location: **Bellingham**  
Project Type: **Assessment**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

The proposed project is for the design and permitting of redevelopment work along the estuary of Squalicum Creek. The project would provide some positive benefits to the nearshore marine environment, but the relatively small area with significant bank hardening nearby would most likely limit the benefits to fish from the Squalicum Creek system. Given the significant costs of restoration (several million dollars) and the uncertainty about which restoration option will be chosen, the anticipated benefits seem low.

The redevelopment of this area of the Port seems to place significant constraints on whether the most beneficial salmon habitat restoration project will be implemented upon completion of the feasibility.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**

Project Sponsor: **Meadow Springs Country Club**

Project Name: **West Fork Amon Creek Fish Passage**

Project Number: **04-1693 R**

Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria? Y ☒ N ☐  
Why?

The project sponsor has proposed reducing the funding request, but as stated in previous comments below, the project provides minimal benefits to lower priority coho salmon. Despite the smaller funding request, this project still has a high cost relative to its benefits to salmon.

While the removal of barriers is a good benefit to primarily coho and steelhead, the costs for the project are high relative to its benefits to fish. The spring fed system probably had limited floodplain historically and proposed dredging of reservoirs will not significantly improve water quality. Runoff from golf course and surrounding urban development appear to be more significant water quality concerns. Overall, this creek system provides a limited quantity and aside from cool water temperatures, provides low quality habitat for salmon.

From a technical perspective this project still provides low benefits for fish. This watershed does not appear to have much habitat, is not a high rated area for restoration because of several limitations in this urban setting, and is probably of limited value as thermal refuge for Yakima River salmonids.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments

The amount of match is not a criterion we evaluate. While community support is a key criterion for the local citizen’s group, it’s not clear how this project builds community support for salmon restoration in areas that would provide high benefit. Why is this type of public support critical for developing future restoration projects? Is the urban community a priority constituency versus agricultural interests?

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **North Yakima Conservation Dist**  
Project Name: **Taylor Ditch Phase I Diversion Structure**  
Project Number: **04-1682 R**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐

Why?

The benefits of this project are limited to the relative cost. The amount of impact from maintenance of the wing dam does not appear to be significant. It’s not clear why this project is a necessary lead to opening Taylor ditch into a functioning side channel?

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

The team recommends finalizing plans for restoration of Taylor ditch into side-channel habitat and including these proposed improvements as part of a larger proposal.

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **Kennewick Irrigation District**  
Project Name: **Engineered Streams for Salmonid Recovery**  
Project Number: **04-1685 R**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐

Why?

This project consists of an engineered stream with construction of a new side channel containing habitat features critical to juvenile salmonids. This is not a significant salmon stream and the project does not appear to provide significant benefits to salmon. The proposal does not work with “natural processes” and it’s not clear sufficient water would be present to support off-channel habitat. The team received very limited information on conceptual design and proposed sites.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

The \$51K budget item for a 10 foot paved trail is not eligible in our restoration program and has been removed from the proposal.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **Kennewick City of**  
Project Name: **Lower Amon Creek Culvert Replacement**  
Project Number: **04-1709 R**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

The information provided is not sufficient to determine the need for, or the benefit of the project. It’s difficult to evaluate the technical aspects of the project without actual photos of the current barrier and specific physical measurements to calculate the value.

This project is a temporary velocity barrier 2-3 days a year, as estimated by the WDFW watershed steward, and has no effect on adult or juvenile migration. This project is not a barrier and should not have been submitted.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?
3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?
4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **Ellensburg Water Company**  
Project Name: **YTAHP Currier Crk/EWC Canal Intersection**  
Project Number: **04-1678 R**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

There are multiple downstream barriers limiting the potential for any anadromous species benefits at this site. This project is out of sequence with Project #15 (04-1677, Lower Currier Creek 2 Mile Passage).

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?
3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **South Naches Irrigation Dist**  
Project Name: **Naches River Flow & Habitat Enhancement**  
Project Number: **04-1683 N**  
Project Type: **Non-Capital**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

The location of the project and addressing in-stream flows is good, but a great deal of uncertainty surrounds many aspects of this project. The sequencing of this project, getting permits (Phase 1) prior to developing a conceptual design (Phase 2) seems problematic. There is insufficient information to evaluate the water savings and potential benefits to salmon.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?
3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?
4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **Kittitas Co Conservation Dist**  
Project Name: **Lower Currier Creek 2 Mile Passage**  
Project Number: **04-1677 R**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

The location and scale of work seems good, but the lack of information on the project design for the 5 abandoned barrier structures and 2 active diversions are difficult to understand. It’s hard to evaluate the true benefit of the whole project.

This project is out of sequence with Project #13 (04-1678, YTAHP Currier Crk/EWC Canal Intersection).

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?
3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **Mid-Columbia RFEG**  
Project Name: **Cle Elum Riparian Restoration, Phase 1**  
Project Number: **04-1674 N**  
Project Type: **Non-Capital**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

It’s unclear that significant, if any, benefits to bull trout would be achieved from this project. The benefits of this type of project are low to relative costs. It’s not clear how this assessment will lead to restoration projects.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

Lead Entity: **Yakima River Basin**  
Project Sponsor: **North Yakima Conservation Dist**  
Project Name: **YTAHP Stream Habitat Restoration**  
Project Number: **04-1681 R**  
Project Type: **Restoration**

1. Is this a “project of concern” according to the SRFB’s criteria?    Y ☒    N ☐  
Why?

It was not clear where habitat plan implementation activities would take place. The team could not evaluate the benefits of this project.

2. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB’s criteria?

3. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

4. Other comments.

This project is similar to the two SRFB-funded projects that the Yakima County Department of Corrections crew has received (00-1714R and 02-1612R). Both of these projects need additional sites identified for habitat restoration.

## ATTACHMENT 6

### Programs and Activities - SRFB Evaluation and Funding Process

(As approved January 29, 2003)

Programs and activities, including those that are not site-specific or have a geographic scope greater than a single lead entity area, may not readily fit in the lead entity project prioritization process. In the past, the board has been asked by Congress, NOAA Fisheries, the state Legislature, and the Governor to consider funding such programs and activities. In addition, the board is often approached by governmental and nongovernmental entities seeking funding for a variety of types of programs and activities associated with salmon recovery.

The SRFB's policies on funding programs and activities are grouped into three categories:

1. **Programs and activities required as part of a federal or state appropriation, by specific text or earmark.** These will be addressed on an ad hoc basis as required. The guidelines in Attachment 1A will be used, when possible, to help shape and condition the project and resulting project agreement to better fit the board's mission and goals.
2. **Programs and activities suggested or recommended (but not required) in conjunction with receiving federal or state funds.** These will also be addresses on an ad hoc basis as required. The guidelines in Attachment A will be used to assist the board in its decision-making process. If the request is funded, the guidelines will be used to help shape and condition the project and resulting project agreement to better fit the board's mission and goals.
3. **Other programs and activities that do not fit into the Board's annual lead-entity-based grant cycle.** The SRFB will solicit such proposals once a year coincident with the annual lead entity-based grant cycle. This will allow regular consideration of requests and an orderly evaluation of the proposals. The amount of funding put towards programs and activities will be weighed against the funding needed for on-the-ground habitat protection and restoration projects by considering them at the same time. Programs seeking funding will be placed on a separate list and considered by the board along with lead entity lists. SRFB staff will provide an initial screening for eligibility and submit the proposals to the technical advisers for review. The advisers, with staff assistance, will develop a written evaluation of each proposal for consideration by the board. The technical advisers and the board will use the guidelines in Attachment A as evaluation criteria. For each funding cycle, the board will establish requirements for eligible applicants, programs and activities and a timeline for the application and evaluation process.

**Emergent Time-Critical Requests.** There is the possibility that there will be an urgent request for funding that warrants immediate consideration. An example would be funding for an important opportunity that would be lost or a crucial program that would be interrupted without immediate action. In this case the board will revert to an ad hoc approach, using SRFB staff for an initial screening, and if time permits, review by a SRFB subcommittee or the SRFB technical advisers. The board will adopt criteria for what would constitute an emergent time-critical request. In evaluating the request, the following questions will be addressed by SRFB staff, a board subcommittee, or the technical advisers:

1. Are the program and proposed activities eligible for SRFB funding?
2. Is the applicant eligible for SRFB funding?
3. What agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders should be consulted for comments?
4. How well does the proposal meet the guidelines in Attachment A?
5. Are there other funding sources that would be more appropriate than SRFB?
6. Are there other ways to achieve the same outcomes that should be considered?
7. Are there other organizations or agencies that could accomplish the program or activity that should also be given a chance to submit a proposal?
8. Are the proposed actions technically sound?

## Attachment 6A

### Guidelines for SRFB Grants for Programs and Activities

1. The program's goals, objectives and expected outcomes should help further the SRFB's mission:

“The Board will support salmon recovery by funding habitat protection and restoration projects, and related programs and activities that produce sustainable and measurable benefits for fish and their habitat.”
2. The program's goals, objectives and expected outcomes should be consistent with the principles in *SRFB Mission, Roles and Responsibilities, and Funding Strategy*.
3. Programs and activities funded by the board should:
  - a. Have clear goals, objectives and expected outcomes.
  - b. Be able to provide adequate accountability for expenditure of SRFB funds.
  - c. When appropriate demonstrate broad, inclusive public involvement and support.
  - d. Be consistent with, and supported by, good science.
4. Priority should be given to programs and activities that:
  - a. Improve the effectiveness of habitat restoration or preservation projects. This would include activities that help ensure habitat projects meet identified high-priority needs of the watershed, are well designed for function and longevity, cost-effective, well maintained, and are monitored in a way to provide data to evaluate project effectiveness and provide information needed for adaptive management.
  - b. If not funded would result in loss of a crucial program or opportunity.
  - c. Have a high certainty that they will be successful in achieving their expected outcomes.
  - d. Lead to a more strategic local, regional, or statewide approach to salmon recovery.
  - e. Are well coordinated with similar or complementary efforts by other agencies and organizations and avoid duplication.
  - f. Use resources in a cost-effective manner.
  - g. Are supported by multiple agencies, entities, or stakeholders.
  - h. Will be a one-time expense to the Board (when relevant).
  - i. Have a long-term commitment from the program sponsor to continue and financially sustain the program in the future.
  - j. Leverage additional support and resources.
  - k. Are compatible with, or help implement, local, regional or statewide recovery plans and strategies?

- l. Have a way to measure the success of the program.
- m. Have no other funding source available.

## ATTACHMENT 7

See separate PDF file.

([http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/SRFB/5th\\_Round/Attach-7\\_List\\_of\\_Projects.pdf](http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/SRFB/5th_Round/Attach-7_List_of_Projects.pdf))